

Three New Sub-tropical Gall Midges (Itonididae, Dipt.).

By E. P. FELT, State Entomologist, Albany, New York.

The gall midge fauna of the warmer parts of the earth is comparatively unknown and it is, therefore, with more than usual interest that we record the characters of several new species.

ALEXOMYIA n. g.

This Porricondylid genus is easily recognized by the short, distinct cross vein forming a well marked angle with costa, the forked fifth vein not close to the posterior wing margin, the supernumerary vein at the base of subcosta extending almost to the cross vein, the simple claws and the rudimentary pulvilli. It is easily separated from the related and possibly associated Argentine *Liebeliola* Kieff. & Jorg. by the uniaarticulate palpi and the short spine-tipped ovipositor. Type: *A. ciliata* n. sp.

Alexomyia ciliata n. sp.

The species described below was received under date of September 22, 1919, from Professor C. P. Alexander, Urbana, Illinois. It was collected at Prata, State of Para, Brazil, and labeled 6-7-19. The type (Cecid. 1805) is deposited in the New York State Museum and is unusually interesting because of its close relationship to a striking Argentine species.

♀.—Length, 4.5 mm. Antennae nearly as long as the body, sparsely haired, black or nearly so, probably with 14 and possibly with 16 segments, the first obconic, the second with a length about half its diameter, the 3rd and 4th fused, the 5th with a stem one-third the length of the cylindrical basal enlargement, which latter has a length about four times its diameter, a sparse whorl of stout setae basally and a scattering whorl of long setae subapically. Circumfila at the basal fourth and apically are connected with irregular longitudinal moderately high and heavy fila. Terminal segment missing. Palpi uniaarticulate, the segment broadly oval and with a thick group of rather short, stout sensory spines apically.

Mesonotum shining dark brown, the submedian lines thickly haired. Scutellum and postscutellum dark yellowish brown. Abdomen dark reddish brown.

Wings hyaline with a length fully three times the width, costa dark brown, the supernumerary vein extending nearly to the cross vein, subcosta uniting with the margin near the basal half, the cross vein short, well-developed, at a distinct angle with costa, the third vein

nearly straight and uniting with the margin a little beyond the apex of the wing, there being a distinct break at this point, the fifth vein joining the posterior margin at the distal third, its branch near the basal half. Halteres fuscous.

Legs mostly dark brown, the 2nd to the 4th tarsal segments with long, fuscous hairs, the 5th yellowish or whitish, the claws moderately long, stout, fuscous, simple, the pulvilli rudimentary.

Ovipositor short, stout, the distal portion greatly reduced, its basal part with a length about equal to its diameter and tapering distally to a rather slender spine nearly as long as the basal part. At the base of the distal portion of the ovipositor, there is a pair of thickly setose, triangular plates, partly separated by a triangular incision.

Porricondyla pennulae n. sp.

This peculiar male in general appearances suggests *Colpodia* Winn., rather than the genus to which it is assigned, because the cross vein is parallel with subcosta. It is also remarkable for the greatly produced terminal clasp segments. The specimen was collected by Professor C. W. Johnson, April 12, 1919, at St. Augustine, Florida. Type Cecid. 1802, in the New York State Museum.

♂.—Length, 1.5 mm. Antennae one-half longer than the body, sparsely haired, dark brown, the stems whitish, 15 segments, the 5th with a stem twice the length of the cylindrical basal enlargement, which latter has a length one-half greater than its diameter. Terminal segment reduced, with a length nearly two and one-half times its diameter, the stem rudimentary. Palpi probably quadriarticulate, though this is not clearly demonstrable in the preparation. First segment with a length over three times its diameter, the second one-half longer, slender, the third with a length more than twice the second, and what appears to be the fourth a little shorter than the third (the last two may be fused).

Mesonotum brownish yellow. Scutellum fuscous yellowish, postscutellum darker, abdomen yellowish brown. Genitalia fuscous yellowish.

Wings hyaline, with a length four times the width, the cross vein nearly parallel with costa, the fifth vein forked. Halteres fuscous yellowish, fuscous subapically.

Coxae pale yellowish, legs a variable straw. Claws rather slender, strongly curved, unidentate, the pulvilli as long as the claws.

Genitalia: basal clasp segment very short, and exceptionally broad, the length being about three-fourths the diameter. Terminal clasp segment longer than the basal clasp segment, irregularly curved, finger-like. Dorsal plate short, broad, triangularly emarginate, the lobes broadly rounded and thickly setose. Ventral plate short, broad, deeply and triangularly emarginate. The lobes rather broadly rounded and thickly setose. Harpes represented by chitinous hooks.

Phytophaga floridensis n. sp.

The one specimen described below was collected at St. Augustine, Florida, April 16, 1919, by Professor C. W. Johnson. It runs in our key to *P. thalictri* Felt, from which it is most easily separated by the distinctly longer antennal segments. A comparison of the two insects shows that they are entirely different. Type Cecid. 1801, in the New York State Museum.

♂.—Length, 1.5 mm. Antennae as long as the body, rather thickly haired, 14 segments, the 5th with a stem one-half the length of the cylindrical basal enlargement, which latter has a length two and one-half times its diameter. Terminal segment produced, with a length over four times its diameter. Palpi, first segment with a length about three times its diameter, the second a little longer, the third one-half longer than the second and the fourth nearly twice the length of the third.

Mesonotum dark yellowish brown, the submedian lines impressed, yellowish, scutellum yellowish, postscutellum a little darker, abdomen yellowish.

Wings hyaline, the third vein uniting with the margin well beyond the apex of the wing. Halteres pale yellowish.

Coxae yellowish, legs mostly dark straw. Claws long, slender, rather strongly curved, simple, the pulvilli a little shorter than the claws.

Genitalia; basal clasp segment short, stout, broad, terminal clasp segment rather short, stout. Dorsal plate broad, broadly and roundly emarginate, the lobes broadly rounded and thickly setose. Ventral plate rather long, narrow, deeply and almost triangularly emarginate, the lobes broad, broadly rounded apically and rather thickly setose.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS!

EDITOR, ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS—As a newspaper man you know without any telling what is the paper situation. Substantially every other industry using wood in any of its forms is in the same kind of trouble, or very soon will be.

In Pennsylvania the root of the whole trouble has been and still is the unmitigated curse of forest fire. Fire has destroyed more growing and prospective timber than all land clearing and cutting put together. Forest fires keep down production. Every acre of soil not needed for purposes more important should be growing trees. To do so they must be made secure against fire.

Because of the open winter and early spring the present fire season threatens to be one of the worst in years. I should appreciate it greatly if you would help by carrying, during May and June, the slogan of the Department of Forestry, which is, "Prevent Forest Fires—It Pays."

Your co-operation will be specially useful in making the idea of forest protection a part of the every day thought and consciousness of our people—GIFFORD PINCHOT, *Commissioner of Forestry, State of Pennsylvania*.